AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 – EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
Serial Number: 09/751945
Filing Date: December 29, 2000
Title: SOFTWARE-BASED FAULT-TOLERANT NETWORKING USING A SINGLE LAN

Page 2
Dkt: 256.078US1

IN THE DRAWINGS

The Office Action raised objections to the drawings, indicating that links other than directly to the originating node be shown from a first intermediate node to the destination node.

Such is already present in Figure 1, for example. Consider FTE node 4 as an originating node, and FTE node 3 as a destination node. A message is received in the first fault-tolerant node switch 2 (103), and is forwarded to FTE node 3 via either the first link direct connection to FTE node 3 or via the second link through Switch 1 (102) and then to an alternate connection to FTE node 3. Neither of these shown links are directly to the originating node.

Further, element 309 of Figure 3, and the accompanying description (*see,* p. 7, ln. 2-11), show and describe how data may be routed through intermediate nodes to a destination node, rather than back to an originating node.